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PENSIEVES

by The Ven. Erwin M. Soukup

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Note: The following items are for use by diocesan editors as fillers or commentary on the Church scene. They may be used in part or in total. All that is asked is that a tag line be used: Pensieves, Chicago.

Episcopalians gasp when they look at the national Church budget. In 1981 it will be more than \$17 million. For comparison, one might look to the budgets of other religious groups: Oral Roberts -- \$60 million; PTL Club -- \$25 million; Jerry Falwell -- \$35 million; 700 Club -- \$30 million; Billy Graham -- \$38 million; Christian Broadcast Network -- \$58 million. What did one of our main-line Christian bodies see for 1981? The United Methodist Church anticipates channeling \$175 million through its benevolence program. And the Episcopal Church is a rich Church?

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There are three Episcopalians in the new national administrative cabinet. That's pretty good, when you recall that the last administration was composed mostly of Southern Baptists. Until you also notice that there are two Schwenkfelders in the new cabinet. That's right, Schwenkfelders. The Schwenkfelder Church is a small German Protestant denomination, with most of its members from central and southern Pennsylvania. That's heavy representation from a Church that numbers a total of 2,748 members.

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Classified ad in the New York Times: "A special newspaper for people with limited vision -- The New York Times. . ." Gives pause for thought until you find that it is an edition with larger type than contained in the regular edition.

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The English Parliament has been asked to help economize by making cuts, not in the budget, but in the English language. Just abandoning the distinction between capital and small letters would reduce paid typists' time by 25 percent, saving, it is estimated, thousands of dollars. Wonder how that would work here? An Englishman, for instance, leaves his flat by the lift, gets into his car to see a film. An American leaves his apartment in the elevator, gets into his automobile and sees a motion picture. We need economy, too.

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Do you suppose that if the present postage rates prevailed St. Paul would have actually mailed his letters to Corinth, to Rome, to Galatia or to Philippi? Wonder if there was postage due on any of them?

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Congress has just hired a new protestant chaplain to open its sessions with prayer. If it's okay for the Senate and the House, how come it's not okay in schoolrooms?

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